

Approved 12/14/10

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, November 9, 2010
At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Attendance

Commissioners: Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich Carr, Kris Dighe (by phone), Anne Goodman, Beri Kravitz and David Zbarsky

Absent: Seth Adams, Christine Davidson-McCord, and Donna Vincent Roa

Guests: Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management
Cynthia Kebba – City of Rockville Planning

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm by Acting Chair Kravitz

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 23, 2010 meeting were reviewed and Carr moved and Goodman seconded approval with one minor typo change (corrected on the final posted minutes). The Commission approved the minutes 6-0-0.

The minutes of the October 10, 2010 (Multi-City) meeting were reviewed and Goodman moved and Carr seconded approval without changes. The Commission approved these minutes 4-2-0.

Rockville Pike Redevelopment

Cynthia Kebba briefed Commissioners on the background of the Rockville Pike redevelopment planning effort and handed out flyers on the public participation process going forward. The project started in 2007 and involves a 410-acre study area. The new plan will replace the current 1989 plan. A draft is expected by the end of the calendar year. The vision for the pike is a multi-modal boulevard that is bike and pedestrian friendly and encourages greater densities, structured parking and mixed use developments. A website has been established to provide interested residents and businesses with more detailed information.

White Tailed Deer Task Force Status Report

Since Davidson-McCord was unable to make the meeting and did not brief another Commissioner, the Deer Task Force report was deferred to December.

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Committee Reports

Watershed Protection

In lieu of a meeting, the Watershed Protection Committee met on October 17 and conducted a stream clean up of its adopted stream segment on Maryvale Creek. Eighteen bags of trash were removed from the creek in less than 2 hours.

In addition, Lise Soukup briefed committee members on progress of the Cabin John watershed study.

Sustainable Development and Energy

No report was offered.

Outreach and Education

Representatives from the *Rockville Living* blog attended the Outreach Committee meeting and discussed partnering on information and community events. The Committee also discussed the proclamation for *America Recycles Day* (November 15), and a magnet give-away item on Rockville recycling. Finally, the group discussed the scope of a *life of a recycled can* video. Roa was unsuccessful in seeking grant funding from AOL to enhance commercial recycling.

The Commission continued the magnet discussion by editing potential wording for the magnet and briefly considering design and distribution issues.

Multi-City Meeting of October 14, 2010

Dighe reported on the Multi-City meeting of Environmental Boards and Commissions. The meeting, held at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, included Rockville, Bowie, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, and Laurel. The nature center was an excellent venue for the session. The coalition decided to meet semi annually in the spring and fall. Gaithersburg will plan and host the spring meeting.

Environmental Literacy Proposal

Carr reported that there is a new Maryland environmental education law that will reinvigorate environmental curricula for K-Grade 12. However, the law leaves broad discretion to each school and teacher regarding the structure of the curricula. Carr proposes that the Commission consider assembling a list of resources available to Rockville teachers, including the Commissioners themselves and City staff, and provide it to area teachers. Goodman noted that she already had a substantial list and suggested that it was a good place to start. It was also suggested that the Commission partner with the Nature Center to put on a train the trainer workshop for teachers.

Environmental Management Report

Charles reported on a variety of initiatives the City staff is working on including:

- The status of the green building tax credit proposal (the Mayor and Council were briefed on the issue on November 8, 2010).
- The Water Resources Element (Discussion and Instruction is scheduled for November 15, 2010)
- The *America Recycles Day* Proclamation was presented to the Mayor and Council on November 8. Dighe and Charles accepted on behalf of the Commission and the recycling staff.
- The status of the stormwater funding Bill in the Maryland legislature (staff has met with other jurisdictions, including Montgomery County, the Maryland Municipal League and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation).
- Collection day calendars will be mailed out to all residents receiving City recycling and refuse service in December.
- There will be two energy efficiency seminars. The first (Dec 13) is targeted at commercial and multi-family facilities. The second is aimed at residents (Jan 26).
- The City website has been updated with complete information on the new green building requirements set out in Chapter 5 of the City Code.

Executive Session

Seth Adams has resigned effective as of this meeting. A replacement Commissioner and new Sustainable Development and Energy Chair will need to be found. The Commission went into executive session to discuss the method of identifying a candidate to recommend to the Mayor and Council for appointment. After some discussion, it was determined that the vacancy should be re-advertised and past candidates encouraged to reapply.

It was also determined that the current Committee structure should be re-examined at the next Commission meeting in December.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 7:30 pm** at **Rockville's City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850**

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Follow Up/Action Items:

- Mark Charles will send out the Multi-City minutes and contact info to all of the Commissioners and others who attended the session.
- Mark Charles will inform the City Clerk's office that there is a Commissioner vacancy.